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# Extension Service *Review*

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## On the October docket

■ 4-H Achievement takes the spotlight in the fall, culminating in the National 4-H Achievement Week and Club Congress next month. As Judge Jones writes in a special message to 4-H Club members, "This harvest-time marks a production record for you, the young farmers of this Nation . . . and marks, too, the end of a year of extra service for your Nation—a year of real war service." Thousands of achievement stories of patriotic and unusual service given by young people add substance and proof to the words of commendation by the War Food Administrator. Now is the time to seek out these stories and bring them to light.

The scandalous waste caused by fires comes to public attention during

National Fire Prevention Week proclaimed by President Roosevelt as October 8 to 14. Some 4,000 kits of publicity material available from Washington have gone to county agents to help them publicize fire prevention, but local stories of successful fire fighting are better. Such a story is that of the prairie fire in the sand hills of Nebraska. According to plan, a nearby village sounded three blasts on the siren alarm. All available help was on the job much sooner than under the older method of telephoning. Fire wardens keep the telephone operators advised of progress of fires. The telephone company sends a truck equipped with telephone and telegraphic equipment that can be "hooked in" to any line so that word may be sent back to the towns as to the progress of the fire.

War brings out the need for more community school lunch programs in

rural areas, and the beginning of the school year is the time to do something about it. Extension agents have a vital interest in adequate school lunches. They have the training and are strategically located to promote the school lunch with community leaders. They can find out what help is available from Government agencies. A spot check of what pupils are actually getting for lunch is often enough to galvanize a hesitant community into action. The shortages of equipment, space, and help can be overcome if the need is felt, and home demonstration clubs are good at this sort of thing.

Information on post-war rural community services and facilities is emphasized this month. In addition to school lunches, veterans' advisory committees, recreation and counseling facilities for rural youth, plans to help war workers as well as veterans adjust to civilian life, better facilities for health and medical care, and better housing are all on the calendar.

## PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Apparently the exhibit of extension publications explaining price control facts pleases Chester Bowles, OPA Administrator (center) as much as it does Director M. L. Wilson (at left) invited over to the OPA offices to see them. The exhibit was collected by OPA Agricultural Adviser H. H. Williamson, formerly extension director in Texas (at right).

## IN THIS ISSUE

OPA and Extension show teamwork.

Iowa builds a work pile for youth returning from the war.

What is a local leader in Pennsylvania?

4-H culls Michigan's chickens.

Discussion points up post-war problems.

4-H Victory homemakers flourish. What is a level?





# On the anti-inflation beam

■ As the country swings from a wartime regulated economy of rationing and price controls to a peace economy, the danger of inflation increases, judged by the last war, as farm people painfully remember. Farmers, economists, and administrators ask what steps should be taken to insure a prosperous peacetime economy.

Farm people must understand the problems.

A look back over the way we have traveled since 1942 when the Emergency Price Control Act put everything the farmer and his wife buy under a price ceiling and the all-out battle against inflation on the home front got under way, shows that much has been learned about making all farm people conscious of their stake in the anti-inflation program.

On the very day the President laid down his seven-point program in his message to Congress, Acting Secretary of Agriculture Grover B. Hill wrote:

"I am depending on the Extension Service in each State to carry on for the Department general educational work to acquaint farmers with the Government's program for holding down the cost of living and their part in the program."

Regional conferences were held within a month to discuss ways and means of interpreting the President's seven-point program to control the cost of living and fighting. State and district conferences followed, and in many places training schools for neighborhood leaders were held.

The Extension Service did not start from scratch on the subject. Extension economists had already prepared a great deal of material—popular bulletins, charts, articles, cartoons, pictures, and talks, depicting the dangers of inflation, the value of building reserves, paying off debts, buying bonds, the disadvantage of bidding against each other for scarce articles. Many leader-training schools, meetings, and discussion conferences had been held to consider financial planning and the economic outlook for farming as a part of the regular extension program.

Extension workers found the Office of Price Administration added power to their message. Joining forces

seemed the natural thing to do. OPA regulations and information were made immediately available through close cooperation in Washington. State extension offices started the presses rolling to turn out this information in simple leaflets and check cards.

Leon Henderson, then administrator, commented on the early efforts in a letter carried in the August 1942 issue of the REVIEW:

"Particularly do we wish to point out that the Federal and State Agricultural Extension Services are doing an excellent job. In fact, our reports indicate that the work being done by the Extension Service through its neighborhood-leader system is the best that is being done in rural areas. Will you please pass on to your extension people our sincere appreciation and assure them that the Office of Price Administration field organization is keenly interested in strengthening this cooperative relationship to the end that the educational program already launched may be extended still further for the duration."

The message was told and retold, in bulletins, in talks, in conversations, in pictures; but no one collected any information on just how much was being done until Administrator Bowles' newly appointed agricultural adviser, former Extension Director H. H. Williamson, began to gather some of the material he found as he traveled about the country. This educational material was placed on exhibit in OPA offices recently. Productions from 15 States were divided into three types of material: Discussions of the nature and effect of dangerous inflation, statements on the importance of price control generally, and explanatory releases on OPA operations such as the regulation of prices and the rationing of scarce consumer goods. Large posters, leaflets, simplified price statements, bulletins, radio and press releases were on exhibit. One display line read, "OPA appreciates their (Extension Service) cooperation in the battle against inflation." Administrator Bowles invited Director Wilson over to see the exhibit when the picture on the first page was taken.

All of these were only the means to an end. The real question was:

Were farm people actually reading and understanding the things set down in the publications? A study made early in 1944 of what the farmer knows and thinks of price control and rationing in four Midwestern States showed that four-fifths of the farmers believed that price ceilings and rationing are necessary or partially necessary.

An incident showing the interest of rural people occurred early this year when Administrator Bowles had three typical members of local rationing boards selected to come to Washington, appear on a radio program, and focus attention on the patriotic contribution of the local ration boards. The three members selected came from Maine, Alabama, and Colorado; and, to the amazement of the Washington office, all three were rural.

The value of teamwork between the Office of Price Administration and the Extension Service is best expressed in a recent letter from Administrator Chester Bowles:

"Again and again, during my tenure as administrator, I have observed the many forms of helpful assistance which we have received throughout the country from the Agricultural Extension Services. I have been particularly impressed by the simplified commodity price ceiling statements for producers, the news digests of OPA activities important to farmers, the cost studies and other surveys of various economic aspects of farm living, and the printed material depicting the dangers of inflation to farmers.

"Farmers generally have been very tolerant and have cooperated exceedingly well with us in perhaps the biggest job ever undertaken by our Government. Your county agricultural agents, home demonstration agents, specialists, and others of your staff have helped immeasurably in making the program work. I want, through you, to convey to them my sincere thanks for making our tremendous task much easier. . . . Let us hope, from our cooperative efforts, there comes a better understanding of our mutual fight to control the destructive forces of dangerous inflation."

The Extension Service, too, appreciates the cooperation which OPA has always given in supplying all available information and the faith they have shown in the ability of the Extension Service to get the ideas to the farm people.

# The staff looks at local leadership

EDWIN H. ROHRBECK, Extension Editor, Pennsylvania State College

■ Wherever there is collective effort, there is leadership. Attention to leadership as it relates to extension work in agriculture and home economics is an old story. And yet, indications are unmistakable that an extra-lively concern with this subject exists today wherever extension people are at work. Wartime demands have made it necessary to rely upon more nonprofessional leadership; current developments make necessary some modifications in the program.

The extension staff in Pennsylvania decided that it needed to re-examine the whole problem of leadership in connection with its work. Thirty years of experience has taught extension workers a good deal about its function and possibilities. Hence, it was decided to review the collective experience of its members and to prepare a statement of field staff opinions on the subject.

A committee was named by Director J. M. Fry at the Pennsylvania State College, consisting of State supervisors (agriculture, home economics, and 4-H) and a subject-matter specialist each for the men's and women's work. H. G. Niesley, assistant director, is chairman of the committee. From time to time, representative men and women county workers have met with and counseled with the committee.

## County Workers Interviewed

Separate interviews were conducted with 94 county workers. W. R. Gordon, extension rural sociologist, served on the committee, analyzed the data, and wrote the report of the canvass. In addition, a set of 15 recommendations for assisting leaders and staff was submitted with the report. These are being studied with the purpose of formulating plans for more efficient use of local leaders.

It is impossible in limited space to review the findings of this canvass, but a few of the more significant items can be given.

The findings in this report re-emphasize the extent to which the county worker is the key to this problem. Equally significant, however, is

the unanimity of opinion among the agents that the extension administrators and the subject-matter specialists need to give more assistance to a program of guidance and inspiration for the local leader.

It was also brought out in the majority of the interviews that the county extension executive committee is a most important factor in making leadership effective and that more effort should be made to have such committees more active in this phase of the work.

## Functions of Leaders Vary

The report furnished evidence of the extent to which the function of leadership varies in agriculture and home economics. It is related to the local organization of the extension program and the territory which the local leader represents. In home economics, the majority of the replies indicate that the leader serves the neighborhood unit. In agriculture, on the contrary, the community unit is considered the most common territorial responsibility of the local leader. There is logical explanation why this should be the case, but from the standpoint of coordinated effort in extension teaching, this relationship of local leader to territory deserves more study and attention.

Again the words "extension leader" do not appear to mean the same thing to different members of the staff. Both in the field interviews and in discussions in staff meetings, "extension leader" is applied indiscriminately to (1) a list of "key people" who are looked to as representatives of the interests of their neighbors, (2) outstanding individuals who have co-operated extensively with a subject-matter specialist or with the county worker in demonstrating a practice, (3) officers and committee members in the county extension organization. In 1942 many names were added to the list of extension leaders (so-called) in most counties. To some agents, these "new" leaders are a group apart from the old, pre-war leaders. And, in the opinion of the analyst, they are that in actual practice and in many instances.

There is impressive evidence in the study that we have not yet devoted the necessary attention to motivation of extension leadership. In presenting recommendations in agriculture and homemaking, we appeal more commonly to the economic motive and to individual satisfaction. That is as it should be. In cultivating leadership, however, the appeal must be to other motives. Much remains to be done before the following question will be common: "What can I do so that more of my neighbors will want and apply the information that the Extension Service is equipped to teach?" Much remains to be done before volunteer leaders will come to the agent and specialist seeking help with their leadership problems as they do now with technical problems in farming and homemaking.

County workers in most instances were aware of the dual nature of the leader's task; that local leadership has to do (1) with planning the program or activity in the community, and (2) with getting the job done or "operation" of the program. They recognized that versatility and initiative are necessary qualifications for leadership and that the assistance we give to leaders must treat both of these if we are to achieve the results desired.

The specialist was acknowledged to be an important factor in the leader-teaching program. Many specific instances of such help in the past were alluded to, and suggestions were made of other possibilities.

As a result of this concerted attention to the subject of leadership, there has been a marked increase in the interest in it. The college committee, in consultation with the field staff, will proceed with the program of study.

## Appreciation event

This year for the first time, the Orange County, N. Y., 4-H Council sponsored the appreciation banquet for 4-H Club leaders with an attendance of 50 leaders and guests. The council gave the leaders 4-H pencils, place cards, 4-H napkins, and a year's subscription for the National 4-H Club News. Flag sets of the 4-H and American flags were given to three 20-year leaders.



# Getting chickens culled in Michigan

H. L. SHRADER, Extension Specialist in Poultry Husbandry



The Spartan culling crate is a labor saver in catching chickens.

■ Culling out the low-producing hens is rather "old stuff" to extension service workers in Michigan. They have been teaching poultry producers that art over a long period of years. Wartime poultry culling is different because of the manpower shortage.

There was a time when county extension agents held demonstrations on culling the slacker hen, but with a multitude of other duties with war boards and agriculture labor they just couldn't find the time. The farm flock owners themselves were more than busy in the fields with war emergency crops.

J. M. Moore and O. E. Shear, the poultry specialists at the college, couldn't personally cover the 150,000 or more farms raising poultry in Michigan; so they put their heads together to formulate a plan that would get the job done. The feedmen in Washington, who don't really raise the feed but simply tell how much total feed is available, were most insistent on finding ways to stretch the

present feed supply. The war effort needed the eggs, so the entire flock should not be sold; it was a question of getting certain hens off the farms as soon as they quit laying. It was a job that had to be done now—not after the harvest season when somebody would find time for that work.

Casting about for a solution, these specialists thought of the thousands of farm boys and girls in the 4-H poultry clubs. "Let's give them some intensive training and put them to work in their home counties," they reasoned. And that's the way the Michigan 1943-44 culling program was started, and once it got rolling it accumulated culls like a spring-thaw snowball.

The county agent was asked to line up about 10 farmers who wanted their flocks culled and to pick out 4 to 6 older 4-H Club members who were willing to cooperate. The vocational agriculture teachers in certain counties helped in this work. The poultry specialist scheduled 2 days in the

county and took the boys and girls to the farm flocks. First, the fundamentals of culling on pigmentation, molt, and condition were explained. The students were told to ask about each hen: Is this bird laying? How long has she been laying? How many vacations has she had? Does she show signs of quitting?

Next, came a very important phase of their training—learning to catch and handle the birds. Now any farm boy or girl has been sent out to catch a chicken for Mother many times, but this catching was different. To handle birds for culling, they must not be unduly excited—else egg production will decline.

A simple catching crate, consisting of 4 hinged panels, was carried on the top of the car or a trailer. This was set up alongside a wall and about 25 birds quietly driven inside the enclosure. Each individual bird can then be picked up by slipping the fingers under the wing close to the body and lifting the bird off the floor. The opposite hand is then placed under the body with the head of the bird facing the operator's elbow. By resting the weight of the bird on the upturned palm and gripping the legs from both sides, the bird can be held securely and quietly. The proper hold, as in wrestling, goes a long way toward keeping the bird from struggling. The detailed examination of the head, wings, legs, and abdomen can now be made; and each student culler decides whether to keep or sell the bird, and this decision is checked by the poultry specialist.

The bird is passed outside the catching crate through an escape door. On the Michigan "Spartan" crate, this door consists of an opening about 18 inches square in each end panel. The opening is covered by a sack or rubber strip from a discarded inner tube. The flock owner usually provides crates to keep the culls confined so they can be sent to market at once.

This procedure gives the club members a good training in the technique and system of culling and does much to establish their confidence so they can be of service to flock owners in their community. The total number of birds culled by club members after their training has not been tabulated, but it runs way up into the thousands. One member reports that he charged



2 cents per bird handled and earned more than \$50 for his college savings fund. A number of the newly trained cullers have reported handling from 3,000 to 4,000 birds during the fall of 1943. Twenty-seven of these 2-day schools were held, and 128 4-H Club members participated. Forty counties will be reached in 1944. During the 1943 season, 36,952 birds were handled in 245 flocks, and 27.1 percent of the birds were classified as culls.

J. M. Moore, poultry specialist in Michigan, in commenting on this campaign, said: "It was amazing how quickly and accurately these 4-H

Club members mastered the art of culling."

One additional feature was the dusting of each good hen with a pinch of sodium fluoride. This helped to remove the irritating body lice from the hens, and in 1943, 67 percent of the flocks examined were found to have some lice.

As an incentive for getting the reports from the club members, the Michigan Allied Poultry Industries have offered \$150 in prizes of war savings stamps and war bonds for the best stories and largest number of birds culled on this project.

workers. Seven members, Betty and Peggy Benston, Evelyn and Lorraine Johnson, Bertha Hansen, Florence Carson, and Beverly Locke spent more than 3,000 hours in home and farm work and civilian defense activities.

They did such jobs as canning, gardening, haying, picking apples, milking, feeding livestock, housework, caring for children, preparing meals, sewing, and serving as voluntary airplane spotters for the Aircraft Warning Service on the Washington coast. And this is what Betty Benston says about her activities:

"Every job I did helped me in some way toward learning more about the duties of a homemaker. I had to plan and prepare meals, plan a grocery list and buy food, plan and carry out a child's activities throughout the day, plan and do my days' work according to the time I had to work, and can fruits and vegetables in a pressure cooker."

Bertha Hansen says: "This year found me helping with everything Mother did in the house and in the garden, driving the truck, getting in hay, feeding cows, and all the chores left when brothers go off to war. But it was interesting and important and may help speed the day of victory."

This phase of 4-H home management work in Washington was planned by the State specialist, Esther Pond.

## 4-H Victory homemakers

■ When war took Mother as well as Dad into the fields or factories, several battalions of teen-age girls immediately mobilized throughout Washington—trained and ready to do essential work in the home.

In Adams County, for example, a squad of 13 girls organized a 4-H Victory club under the leadership of Mrs. Margaret K. Hoech, assistant home demonstration agent at Ritzville, Wash. These club members were trained in labor-saving methods and efficiency; and during their first year's organization they spent more than 3,000 hours doing housework, caring for children, helping with the yard and garden, preserving food, preparing meals, and doing other tasks of a homemaker.

But these household duties alone did not satisfy the busy Victory club members. They cleaned up the USO rooms regularly, took part in community war projects like collecting waste paper and fats, and wound up the year by decorating a large hall and serving and cleaning up after a community-wide Victory Garden dinner served to 300 people.

"The club was organized solely to help busy homemakers and relieve them for other wartime work," says Mrs. Hoech. "These girls went into the homes to do the work of homemakers. Some had regular jobs, others worked when they could spare some time from their tasks at home, and still others went out to farms in

the summer and worked as mothers' helpers for \$1 a day."

Barbara Boggs and Lois Michels, both 11 years old, are the youngest club members. Luetta Arnst, 15, is the oldest. Others are: Kathryn Boggs, Mary Buhl, Davida Dirks, Carol Jean Kiehm, Margie Luiten, Norma Nauditt, Corine Rothrock, Virginia Schwerin, Barbara Streeter, and Eleanor Freese.

The Pleasant Hill Minute Girls' 4-H Club of Cowlitz is another group answering the call for home front

**4-H Victory homemakers, who care for the children while Father and Mother are doing war work in field and factory, learn to do it right.**





# Illinois discussion clinics point up post-war problems

DAVID E. LINDSTROM, Extension Specialist in Rural Sociology, Illinois

■ Eight discussion clinics held in Illinois last fall (1) demonstrated a number of discussion techniques and (2) gave a preview of what leaders of a variety of groups in Illinois communities were thinking about post-war problems. More than 600 farmers', homemakers', town and city organization leaders, librarians, teachers, and local and county officials attended these 8 clinics.

discussion were demonstrated: The forum, the small-group discussion, and the symposium. In addition, other methods were explained; at the beginning of the clinic everyone was given a mimeographed manual on group discussion in which other methods and techniques were discussed. This manual was later printed by the Illinois State Library, and to date more than 1,500 copies have since

librarians. A preclinic meeting was held with these leaders on the morning of the date for the clinic to clear up details and to instruct in methods of leading discussion. Thus the outline for the day's meeting was given to all attending, and each was prepared to participate.

A list of discussion topics for the small-group discussions, growing out of previous State, regional, and national meetings, was sent to each person invited to attend, requesting that he be ready to take part in a discussion group on one of the topics of most interest to him.

The results were illuminating. In no clinic were the same topics chosen, though the most popular in most places was: "How can we get greater cooperation among the organizations in our community on post-war planning?" This still remains a very knotty problem in Illinois, it seems, as more and more groups are doing their own post-war planning irrespective of what others are doing. The summary statements coming out of the small-group discussions are really a cross section of the thinking of Illinois people on the topic discussed.

In following up the clinics this fall, a plan was submitted to extension agents at their spring meeting. It was decided to hold 9 district discussion clinics in late October or early November to teach and demonstrate discussion methods useful in neighborhood, community, and special group meetings. These will present the value and discuss several methods of discussion, using the new circular, *Let's Talk It Over*, as a guide. Each clinic will also include a demonstration discussion on an important current issue, for example, social security or rural school reorganization, and explore the contribution that various organizations and agencies—the Extension Service, the library, farmers' organizations, and others—can make to the solution of the problem.

Those invited to attend include farm and home advisers, a carload of community and neighborhood leaders selected by them, librarians invited by the State librarian, rural pastors invited through denominational representation, county school superintendents who bring a carload of rural teachers, and such other leaders as are likely to be interested.



An idea is aired in a small discussion group at the Rock Island clinic.

The clinics demonstrated that leaders of many types of organizations were faced with problems of how to carry on group discussion. The pattern for the clinics was a demonstration in which all attending had the opportunity for participation. Each clinic was opened by a general statement on the need for post-war planning and the importance of discussion in post-war planning. This was followed by a period of discussion. Then the entire group was divided into as many small groups as seemed desirable, each to discuss some issue or problem in post-war planning. Then the groups reassembled, and reports were given of the results of the small-group discussions, each of these reports being in turn discussed by the entire group. Thus three methods of

been requested from all parts of the country.

Preparation for the clinics was made by a joint committee of five, representing the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Adult Education Association, the American Association of University Women, and the State discussion leader for the Extension Service. The impetus for the clinics came from the national and district post-war planning institutes held by the American Library Association whose coordinator for Illinois, Helene Rogers, acted as chairman for the committee.

Local chairmen and discussion leaders were selected in advance by the committee with the help and advice of local representatives such as county farm and home advisers and local



# What is a level?

M. L. WILSON, Director of Extension Work

■ I know that I must be one of the worst offenders in labeling each part of the Cooperative Extension Service as a level—the Federal level, the State level, the county level. The implication in that phraseology is entirely wrong.

In the first place, the Cooperative Extension Service is a joint enterprise in which Federal, State and County Governments participate with rural people, *all on the same level*.

In the second place, when we talk about Federal, State, and county levels, we are unintentionally apt to convey the meaning that we in the U. S. D. A. office of the Cooperative Extension Service have a broader perspective than those in State extension offices, and that they, in turn, have a broader perspective than those in the county offices.

This should not be so. If we in the Washington office and in the State offices perform our functions well, there should be only a slight lag between our broader understanding here, in the State offices, and in the county offices.

County extension agents should

have an equally broad perspective on all phases of the national agricultural program. The only difference is that these broad programs are brought to focus in the counties in practical terms of local problems, situations, habits, and attitudes of the rural people, and thus made workable.

Each county extension agent must study and understand the whole program in order properly to interpret and apply it locally. That is the very essence of the democratic pattern of cooperative extension work. That is the core of an organization with an educational program which is flexible enough to adjust national and regional requirements of the group to the day-to-day needs of the individual who is affected.

And so I like to think of the Cooperative Extension Service as a triangle—with one side representing the Federal Government, one, State Government, and one, County Government. Each side is independent but joined together make a unified and harmonious whole. This conveys an entirely different conception than when we speak in terms of levels.

## Wartime clothing problems

■ Shortages and limitations in the clothing field have not dismayed home demonstration agents and home demonstration club members in Arkansas this year. They have adopted as their slogan the old proverb, "Wear it out, make it do, or do without."

These ingenious club members and agents might have taken the attitude, "We can't do anything about a clothing program because there is so little new material available," but not these women. They have taken the attitude, "Let's seek new approaches to the old problem of clothing our families." This is to be seen by the fact that 101 different topics concerning clothing were listed in county home demonstration council yearbooks in Arkansas for 1944.

Thirty-three different demonstrations were listed on the ever-present problem of constructing clothing and

accessories. Shortages of ready-made clothing for children have created a big demand for simple sewing instructions for such items as children's play clothes and boys' overalls. Individual dress forms are coming back into fashion for the woman who sews alone or who has to sew for someone away from home. Many of these forms are serving as "stand-ins" for a daughter or sister who is away from home working in a defense plant.

Scarcity of available harmonizing accessories and the high prices of ready-made accessories have caused many women to learn to make their own gloves, belts, hats, jabots, and dress trimmings. One of the most popular trimmings developed by the women has been the use of floral-striped print for braid on solid-colored dresses. Many times the scrap bag has furnished enough braid to trim

a dress or pinafore.

Never before have care and storage of clothing and accessories been of such interest to Arkansas women. Twenty-one different demonstrations are listed. Many who have not previously done their own washing and ironing are asking for demonstrations on laundering. Washing and blocking sweaters and cleaning accessories such as hats, gloves, shoes, and purses have been popular programs, too. As woolen clothes are so scarce and expensive, much greater interest is being taken in cleaning and storing them to prevent moth damage.

Remodeling and mending are also of interest. Fourteen different topics on remodeling and mending were listed in the yearbooks.

Wardrobe planning, budgeting, and clothing selection were given under 20 different headings. Women are interested in such things as fabric identification, comparisons between "ready-mades" versus "home-mades," suitable colors and designs, and necessary wartime clothing adjustments.

Patterns and pattern fitting accounted for nine different demonstrations. These included such things as learning to use a pattern, altering patterns, and drafting patterns.

Cleaning and adjusting sewing machines is more important now that many women are doing more home sewing and new machines are not on the market. Many discarded machines are being cleaned up and used again. Sewing machine attachments are also being used more since professional-looking finishes can be added to home-constructed garments by their use. Other attachments make it possible to save time in sewing.—*Sue Marshall, Extension Specialist in Clothing and Household Arts, Arkansas.*

### Sewing for soldiers

Lamarque women's home demonstration club of Galveston County, Tex., has devoted each Tuesday to sewing for soldiers of Camp Wallace. Headquarters transports 8 to 10 women with 2 to 4 portable sewing machines from community to camp. In December, the commanding officer presented certificates of honor and appreciation to 8 members of the club for having sewed 10 or more full days successively. In 1 month, the women reported working on 3,751 garments.

# Develop work opportunities ready for soldiers' return

■ The letter from the post-war planning board brought a real lift to young men and women from Hamilton County, Iowa, working or fighting in the far corners of the world. From Texas a soldier complained because his pal was overlooked and asked "How come?" From Normandy to New Guinea and at camps in almost every State, men and women sat down to fill out their questionnaire and thank the home town leaders for their interest in "our future."

About 2,200 have gone from the county into the armed services. Would they come back to the stores and offices of Webster City, the county seat? Would the farm boys think the fertile fields of Hamilton County offered them opportunity; and was the opportunity really there? Father Frien, a far-seeing Catholic priest, thought a great deal about the future of these young folks and often talked about it with his friends, leaders in the community. The American Legion, businessmen's associations, and other groups began looking round for something definite to do about it. The Rotary Club finally took the first step of calling all interested people together to set up a post-war planning board commissioned to work out a plan of action—a plan which would create a work pile ready for the returning veterans and war workers.

Father Frien, the first chairman of the board, who had been an inspiration in the organization, died after the board had held a few meetings; and County Agent H. M. Nichols took up the duties of chairman.

## Board Meets Every Week

Under Agent Nichols, the board met every Monday during the winter. Though the discussion was ardent and interesting, it soon became apparent that actual facts were conspicuous by their absence. How many wanted to come back, and what did they want to do? How many job opportunities were actually on the farms? Could business houses take back all those who had left their employ? How much building and repairing was already in the wind?

To find out first the plans of the service men and women, a questionnaire was decided upon. Building up the mailing list was slow business. The board is still working on it. Letters went out to more than half of the boys and girls in April on the letterhead of the Hamilton County Post-War Planning Board which lists the various organizations taking part. The letter said: "In addition to our support of the war effort, we at home are doing our best to look ahead to the day when you and all service men and women will return. We are planning now to provide work for everyone who wants employment in our county after the war."

## Letters Sent to Veterans

In Webster City, 550 letters brought in responses from more than half of them. There was much study and paring down of the questionnaire to keep it short and simple, but after the final response the board felt that perhaps a little more information could have been included which would have been helpful. According to the returned questionnaires, 80 percent of the boys and girls planned to come home and look for work, and 27 percent of those returning questionnaires said they wanted to take further schooling. The State Rehabilitation Committee were much interested in this part of the survey because they had expected that only 10 to 12 percent would want to return to school.

The information from the questionnaires is being assembled in a master file, according to the jobs they want to do or for which they are trained. The largest group are farmers, although mechanics, truck drivers, and students are also numerous. The facts are being plotted on a large map of the county. The War Aid Council and the chamber of commerce are responsible for analyzing and filing the information.

To arrive at some estimate of the work available, a questionnaire was also sent to farmers; and 415 were filled out and returned. Most of the farms planned to continue about the same size enterprise after the war.

One hundred and four were looking for sons and relatives to come back and help them, and about 169 were going to need help in addition to that given by the family after the war.

One interesting fact brought out by the farm questionnaire was the amount of building and repairing planned. New homes are in prospect on 30 farms, and 68 will probably be rebuilt. New barns will go up on 37 farms, and 32 will be rebuilt. Many smaller buildings are being planned, such as 62 new corncribs, 43 hog houses, and 57 machine sheds, as well as painting, fencing, and tiling. To arrive at an estimate of jobs in town, a survey was made of wholesale, retail, and service establishments. These returns are not in yet.

As the background situation becomes established, the board is going ahead with plans for action. The August meeting was devoted to outlining the definite steps to be taken first. They are thinking in terms of a general welcoming meeting and then the establishment of a board of the most able leaders both in business and farming who will devote considerable time to counseling the young folks. They might be available 3 afternoons each week to listen to the problems and ambitions, helping to work out personal problems, to give them a healthy attitude in making the necessary adjustments from military to civilian life—help to fit the right man to the right job.

## The News Spreads

The news of these activities has spread. Twelve or 15 county agents, 15 or 20 chambers of commerce, and 2 national magazines have written to Agent Nichols about it. Governor B. B. Hickenlooper; Brig. Gen. Charles H. Grahle, Director of the State Selective System; and others have indicated their desire to attend some of the county discussion meetings.

County Agent Paul Johnson of nearby Crawford County brought over his post-war planning committee to meet with the Hamilton board and find out what their experiences had been. With 1,700 men and women from this county in the armed forces and 1,500 engaged in war production, the committee felt it was necessary to make some preparation to receive them back after the war.



Talking over the specific situation was helpful to both groups. "We have no houses for them," said Editor George Wolcott of Crawford County. "Absolutely none for rent here either, and precious few for sale, and those going at outlandish prices," agreed a Hamilton County banker. "What about the drug store here that hired only two clerks and now has sent five of them into the fighting forces? Who gets the two jobs?" asked another. "Well," commented Agent Nichols, "those that say we don't need to think of these things until the war is won don't know what they are talking about." "Looks as if we didn't have any too much time to get things shaped up," agreed Bob McCarthy, chairman of the steering committee, who is a dealer in farm equipment.

Planning together for the future has brought together the fighters on distant fronts and their folks at home. It put down on paper the ambitions of a New Guinea aviator who wrote: "My future plans can all be covered under the term, aviation. . . After the war, freight carrying by air will be a new civilian phase, and Webster City has enough freight to use the air for hauling. Everything could be flown out—mail, machinery, automobile parts, food, clothing, drugs, and supplies. I know these ideas cannot be fulfilled in a short time, but in several years aviation will be the thing."

Webster City, looking ahead, has just appropriated money for a new airfield and is encouraged to hear from a native son who is gaining a great deal of practical experience in freighting war supplies into New Guinea and who sees a vision for the future of his home town. The boy is encouraged to know that folks at home are progressive, too—that they are planning to provide opportunity for his specialized training—to make his home town a place of opportunity for him.

■ Gasconade County, Mo., has 211 active school-district leaders trained and ready to dispense information on gardening, insect control, canning, and storage. These leaders are challenging their neighbors to surpass the record of last year, when people of the county produced, canned, and stored the equivalent of 310 carloads of foods.

## County camps make 4-H history

■ Nearly 3,000 of Washington's 10,000 4-H Club members and leaders, representing 35 of the State's 39 counties, got together this summer for their only vacation of a busy crop season. They held county club camps at various lakes, beaches, and parks throughout the State.

Last year wartime conditions forced cancellation of the annual 4-H Club Camp at Pullman for the duration, but 25 counties carried on with successful club camps of their own. "The county club camp is here to stay—even after the war is over," says Charles T. Meenach, acting State 4-H Club agent. "It gives younger boys and girls an opportunity to meet other club members and to work and play together years before they are old enough to qualify for the State camp."

Joint club camps seemed to be the thing this year. In fact, only 10 counties planned individual camps. 4-H'ers practically staked out claims to Deception Pass on Whidby Island, with 8 counties taking over throughout July. Famous "foursomes" were the San Juan-Clallam-Jefferson-Island camp and the Yakima-Kittitas-Klickitat-Benton combination.

Clark County, which upped its membership from 391 to 701 this year, had just about the largest county camp in 4-H history; 375 club members, parents, and leaders (150 more than originally expected) spent 4 exciting June days together at Sunset camp, 40 miles from Vancouver on the south fork of the Lewis River.

Camp high lights included classes in first aid, handicrafts (making plaster of Paris 4-H pins), firearms, and recreational leadership. The State Patrol officers, who taught first aid, proper use of firearms, and farm and home safety, were especially popular with the 4-H'ers—"Jeepers, just like one of the gang!" enthused several young club members.

Extension Specialists John Dodge, John C. Snyder, Eleanore Davis, Cal Svith, Rae Russell, Art Cagle, I. M. Ingham, Esther Pond, L. G. Smith, and Walt Tolman assisted county agents and home demonstration agents in conducting classes and organizing the camps. Rev. Lincoln B.

Wirt, emergency assistant in 4-H Club work, dashed back and forth across the State to conduct the popular recreational leadership classes designed to teach 4-H members to plan and lead "get-togethers" in their homes, clubs, and communities.

Other outstanding camp events were the group "sings," the original entertainment skits put on by members of different clubs, and the impressive candle-lighting ceremony which concluded each camp.

Down in the southeastern corner of the State, club members from Garfield, Asotin, and Columbia opened the "camping season" with their June 5 to 7 camp at Hidden Valley on the Tucan canyon in Columbia County. Also on the June club camp schedule were Lincoln, Adams, and Franklin, with a 3-day camp at Twinlow on the Idaho Twin Lakes; Spokane County's annual camp at the Kiwanis Health Center on the Little Spokane River; Clarke County, with a 4-day camp near Sunset Falls on the Lewis River; and Okanogan and Douglas, with a 3-day excursion to Lost Lake.

Kitsap 4-H'ers enjoyed an early July camp at Seabeck on Hood Canal; and the Puget Sound counties, Skagit, Clallam-Jefferson-Island-San Juan, Whatcom, Snohomish, and King, had their outings at Deception Pass on Whidby Island. Northeastern Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties had a joint club camp at Black Lake, and Skamania 4-H'ers camped out in the forest at Government Mineral Springs. Lake Wenatchee was the site of the Chelan County late July camp. Cowlitz 4-H'ers went on a 4-day forest retreat.

August campers included Mason 4-H'ers at Hood Canal, Yakima-Benton-Klickitat-Kittitas at Clear Lake in Yakima County, Pacific at Snyder Pond, Grays Harbor at Black Lake near Olympia, and Pierce at Bow Lake.

Winding up the season were Thurston 4-H'ers with a 3-day camp at Millersylvania Park, Wahkiakum club members who went up to Camp Moorehead on Willapa Bay, and Lewis 4-H members who got together August 20 at Lewis-Clark State park to combine their 4-day club camp and fair.



# Why canned food spoils

■ Spoiled canned tomatoes, off-colored chunks floating in a murky liquid, made up Exhibit A in the food-spoilage clinic held at South Dakota State College last May. A microscopic slide showed enlarged views of the yeast, molds, and bacteria at work in the tomatoes. Test-tube samples measured the acid and gas content and showed the decomposed condition of solids and liquid.

This was just one feature of the 10-day food-preservation conference devoted entirely to canning problems. The emergency food-conservation assistants came first with 3 days of actual experience in food preservation and the use of a variety of equipment. The new workers in the field were then joined by home agents and other personnel for a series of lectures given by experts.

Prof. A. R. Grismer of the bacteriology department of South Dakota State Agricultural College discussed the bacteriological reasons for food spoilage with particular reference to helpful and harmful bacteria and how they developed. Growth and action of yeasts and molds were discussed. Professor Grismer emphasized the fact that it was the toxin from the botulism organism that was fatal; therefore, if every homemaker would boil her canned products for 10 minutes or longer before tasting

them, there would be no danger of harmful effects. He asserted that homemakers do not seem to realize that canning is fundamentally sterilization and keeping food that way by complete sealing.

After the lecture, the group attended the exhibit set up in the college bacteriology laboratory. Twenty-two jars of spoiled food sent in from all over the State were on display, along with many other exhibits.

The clinic revealed the need for emphasis on careful selection of jars and the correct use of jar closures, plus ability to follow directions in the use of a pressure cooker. Home agents felt this to be one of the most helpful features of the conference.

Other features of food-spoilage day included talks on an Iowa spoilage survey given by the State executive secretary for the nutrition committee. The uses of sprays and canning compounds were discussed by a professor from the pharmacy department.

The vitamin content of vegetables and their value in diet and nutritive comparisons of foods preserved by a variety of methods were given by the experiment station chemist and nutritionist. Vegetable storage, including a tour of college facilities, was conducted by the head of the horticultural department.

Equipment day featured the opera-

tion and care of pressure cookers by a professor of mechanical engineering. Various pressure cooker models were demonstrated by representatives from the various manufacturers. The women also learned how to test pressure cooker gauges and to operate tin-can sealers. Dehydrators and apple box driers were the subject of a lecture by the professor of electrical engineering. The selection, care, and preparation of jar covers and lids was the subject of discussion under the leadership of a representative of a jar manufacturer.

Community canning centers was the theme of the program for 1 day. G. A. Vacha, chief bacteriologist of the Department of Agriculture, St. Paul, Minn., and Mrs. Mary C. Corbett, assistant food preservation specialist, WFA, provided material on causes of food spoilage in community canning centers and methods of procedure, equipment, and management of community canning centers.

Canning safety from the viewpoint of health and methods of operating canning equipment was presented by a representative of the National Safety Council and by Mary E. Loughhead of the Federal Extension Service.

Methods of reaching people included a movie on canning and panel discussion by home agents and emergency food people.

The final sessions were devoted to food-preservation budgets and the use of canned products, with the professor of foods and nutrition as discussion leader.

**A group of home demonstration agents and food preservation assistants make a personal investigation of why canned foods spoil.**



## A good bond salesman

Because of her outstanding work in war bond campaigns, Mrs. J. W. Scogins, retiring president of the Clarke County, Ga., home demonstration council, received a "Minute Man" certificate from the Treasury Department.

In part, the certificate reads: "For joint sponsorship of the entire bond-selling campaign for Clarke County during December 1943, when the quota was oversubscribed," and "for selling war bonds with the members of the county home demonstration council" and "for service in connection with the bond-selling solicitation made by the county's neighborhood leaders outside the city of Athens."



# We Study Our Job

## Colorado studies rural diets

Only 1 out of 20 persons interviewed in rural Colorado had a diet which was not deficient in at least one or more basic foods. This fact was brought out in a study of health practices and attitudes of more than 2,300 Coloradans living in 7 widely scattered sections of the State.

Sixty-five percent of the people who did not meet the nutrition yardstick requirements thought that their diets were adequate. Some did not know the recommended number of servings for various food items, and some substituted other foods.

Four out of five of those with insufficient servings of milk to meet nutrition recommendations thought they had enough. Some were satisfied with less than the recommended number of servings, while others did not recognize the lack.

Two out of three with insufficient servings of green leafy and yellow vegetables to meet the yardstick recommendation did not care about their limited vegetable intake. A common remark was "Johnny doesn't like salad, and dad likes spuds and gravy."

Scarcely a person who did not have a sufficient number of servings of potatoes wanted more. Not once was the potato accused of being expensive or hard to get, but it was accused of being fattening. Many individuals whose diet was standard in consumption of potatoes apologized for eating them. On the other hand, potatoes were considered by many as the foundation food for a man who worked hard.

Cost was the most important single reason given by those not meeting yardstick requirements who knew they did not have adequate diets. Other reasons included unavailability of certain foods because of difficulty in getting to town, no garden or orchard, or not sold in country stores; dislike of some foods; and lack of refrigeration for food.—PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES OF RURAL PEOPLE IN COLORADO IN MEETING A "YARDSTICK OF GOOD

NUTRITION."—by R. W. Roskelley, Colorado rural sociologist. Colorado Extension Publication 380-A, April 1944.

## Methods of leaders and specialists compared

A study of some aspects of leadership in Indiana's 1943 home demonstration clubs brings out an interesting comparison of the methods used by home demonstration club leaders and extension specialists. To a large extent, the leaders used the same methods in giving out home-economics information that the extension specialist had used in training them. The methods of giving a demonstration and of showing illustrative materials were used at more than three-fourths of the meetings of both specialists and leaders. Leaflets on the subject matter discussed were read by 36 percent of the specialists and 37 percent of the leaders. But for the most part, leaders shied away from making talks similar to those given by specialists.

Leaders used 2 or 3 methods in presenting a lesson, but seldom followed the specialists' 4-method pattern. The choice of methods for teaching a lesson depended somewhat on the subject matter. The same number of methods was used in 58 percent of the nutrition lessons, in 53 percent of the clothing lessons, and in 72 percent of the lessons on furnishing and managing the home.

In presenting lessons, both specialists and leaders used certain techniques to develop interest, to get attention, and to explain the lesson. One of the techniques used by both specialists and leaders consisted of having others help in giving the lesson—by contributing illustrative materials, assisting with a demonstration, or taking part in a discussion.

The leaders shortened their meetings to approximately 41 minutes. This saving of time was made possible because they used fewer methods in presenting a lesson than the specialists used in their 2-hour leader-training meetings. On the average, the leaders gave a nutrition lesson in 42

minutes, clothing lesson in 41 minutes, and furnishings and management lesson in 37 minutes.

Ninety percent of the leaders stated that the amount of time allowed them for giving a lesson was sufficient for them to present the subject matter. Ninety-five percent of the club presidents and members said that the time used by leaders was sufficient for them to understand the lesson.

Club presidents and members listed the following organizational factors as influences on the success of home demonstration meetings: officers worked well; leaders received and gave lessons; members gave good attention; members came to meetings on time; members participated with enthusiasm; and members' participation in the business session was good.

Nearly all club members said they joined home demonstration clubs to learn new ways of doing home work. More than half of the members said they participated because they were interested in the extension program and because they wanted to visit with their neighbors.

"Specialists should be encouraged to take advantage of the fact that subject matter leaders so nearly parallel their use of methods," the author points out. Further recommendations are: (1) Need for specialists to use teaching methods in keeping with leadership ability of leaders. Use methods that can be adapted to local teaching situations and local needs. (2) Extension workers should investigate further the amount of time used by subject-matter leaders in giving lesson in local club meetings to determine what parts of lessons are being omitted. (3) Give adequate training to organization leaders in the philosophy and objectives of extension work, in program planning procedures and for their executive responsibilities in local club meetings.—SOME ASPECTS OF LEADERSHIP IN ADULT HOME ECONOMICS EXTENSION CLUBS IN INDIANA IN 1943, by Elsie Elizabeth Glasgow, Indiana Extension Service. Thesis, type-written, June 1944.



## Extension agents join fighting forces

Nine extension workers have made the supreme sacrifice. More than 1,260 extensioners serve their country in the armed forces. These men and women are in many parts of the world and in various branches of the service. Sometimes their experiences are a far cry from those of pre-war days. News of their doings and excerpts from their letters are printed on this page.

### Extension's Gold Stars

J. L. Daniels, formerly assistant county agent in Madison County, Ala., died, as a result of wounds received at Guadalcanal, in December 1942. He was in the Marines.

Lt. A. D. Curlee, formerly county agent in Alabama, Army, killed in action April 6, 1943.

Ensign Tom Parkinson, formerly assistant county agent in Henry County, Ind., Navy, missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. Frank C. Shipman, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

1st Lt. Leo M. Tupper, of Nebraska, Army, killed in action.

William Flake Bowles, formerly assistant agent in Watauga County, N. C., Army, reported missing in action on the Italian front.

Ensign Robert H. Bond, of the Federal Extension staff, Washington, D. C., Navy, reported missing in action in the Southwest Pacific.

Capt. J. B. Holton, formerly county agent in La Salle Parish, La., was killed in action in Europe during the invasion, June 9.

Capt. Frank Wayne, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., killed in a vehicle accident in England.

■ LT. KENNETH M. BRUMFIELD, formerly assistant county agent in Lincoln Parish, La., now stationed at a B-24 Liberator Bomber base in Italy, was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in aerial flight from February 17 to March 15, according to an announcement by 15th Air Force Headquarters.

### Telling the British about American farming

■ England is indeed a long, long way from Washington County, Tex., and being in the A. A. F. Weather Service is quite different from being a county agricultural agent; but in spite of the unusual circumstances, my interest in agriculture has in no way diminished. I am spending all of my spare time trying to learn all that I possibly can about agriculture in England. I have visited a number of large farms over here and attended agricultural meetings; and, in the company of a very prominent farmer, I visited and studied the English grain and livestock market facilities in one of their large cities. I have already had many interesting and educational experiences, and I am looking forward to learning much more about the agricultural practices, methods, and problems in general over here.

I find the people here very much interested to learn more about our agriculture in the United States; consequently, I usually find myself an-

swering as many questions as I ask.

The special services branch of our Army has organized a "speakers' pool" of qualified American soldiers that are available to the English people for the purpose of giving lectures on practically any phase of American life. Under this system, I have had the opportunity to give several talks at agricultural meetings on our agricultural set-up in the United States.

I have just been informed today that I am being scheduled for a number of appearances in schools over here, for the purpose of telling the British youth about the life of the rural youth of America. In my talks I plan to devote most of my time to telling the youngsters over here about our 4-H Clubs back home.—*Corporal L. A. Sprain, Jr., formerly agricultural agent in Washington County, Tex.*

### From a medic in New Guinea

This letter finds me in the jungle of New Guinea among the well-known South Sea Islands. Believe me, the average person has a misconception of these islands, as I would rather be in a duststorm in western Kansas with Dorothy Lamour than here. We have about every kind of insect there is (good hunting ground for Dr. Kelly). As for rain, it does that all the time. We had 80 inches in about 72 hours here about 10 days ago and of course had water every place. I haven't seen the sun for more than a week; but once in a while it clears off, and then it is very hot. This is supposed to be winter here; and if it is, I'm afraid I'll never be able to get through the summer.

Even though this is a poor place to be, we are all in good spirits as we



believe we are actually doing some good for a change. We have built our own hospital out of prefabricated material on land that was all jungles when we came here. It was a hard job, but nevertheless we were able to receive patients in just three weeks after we started. Of course we are still doing some work such as finishing the plumbing. We have running water, flush toilets, and electric lights, and even cement sidewalks; so we have a pretty nice place.

This has really kept me busy, as I have been putting in about 18 hours a day and some days 24 hours. Ordinarily, we have three supply officers; but before we left the States, and to date, I am the only one, and it fell on my shoulders to build this place, as well as supplying all the equipment, drugs, and surgical instruments. Personally, I would rather be busy, as the time passes much faster.

One thing sure, you will never see any signs of agriculture here, not even a cow. They do export coconuts from here—or, rather, they did—but that is all it is good for.—*Lt. C. W. Pence, formerly Dickinson County, Kans., club agent.*

## THE ROLL CALL

(Continued from last month)

### NEVADA

Mildred Huber, district home demonstration agent, WAC.

### RHODE ISLAND

Merrill W. Abbey, county agent for eastern Rhode Island since October 16, 1940, has been commissioned a lieutenant (j.g.) in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

### SOUTH DAKOTA

Capt. Fred E. Larson, county agent, Bon Homme County, Army.

### TENNESSEE

L. E. Hewgley, assistant agent, Giles County, Army.

### WASHINGTON

Pvt. Marguerite Berry, former home demonstration agent in Benton County, WAC.

### FEDERAL EXTENSION SERVICE

Washington, D. C.

Dorothy McMahon, WAC.

# In Tennessee

T. SWANN HARDING, Editor, USDA

■ A look at the unit test demonstration farms and the finely organized demonstration communities, made possible by the cooperation of TVA and Extension, was the object of the Tennessee tour. The transformations wrought in soil conservation and standards of family living by the use of scientific practices on many hill farms with slopes of 15 to 20 percent were remarkable. Of course we asked if the farmers regularly cultivated the soil on both sides; and, being somewhat feeble, we simply refused to climb some of the duckier slopes.

After TVA took over some of the richest valley land in several counties, something had to be done to aid the farmers who moved to the hills. One thing consisted in socking TVA phosphates into hillside pastures, a procedure that at first appeared quaintly ridiculous to many farmers. But in time at least one fellow in a community would see advantage in the newly recommended practices. He very often became the community leader and his farm the test farm. The solid results achieved brought followers, and slowly whole communities were organized.

Along with better pasture fertilization went the use of proper rotations, crop diversification, and increased livestock and milk production. Here TVA finances special agents under Extension Service who work with the farmers. The TVA also provides considerable phosphate free to farmers who make the best use of it. Results are so good, however, that they tell you it would have paid them even to buy the phosphate. Test farmers keep complete records of income and outgo. The project involves not only all farm practices but all farm-family living, for these are unit test farms.

The projects are being worked at all income levels. One steep hill county was visited, where a temporary blizzard was thoughtfully provided, in which the average cash income of the farmers ranged from \$100 to \$250 a year. Yet even these people had built their own clubhouse from lumber recovered from an abandoned cabin camp. They too were preventing soil erosion and the sedimentation of reservoirs. Better cover and improved yields resulted.

We visited one farmer in Carter County who had more than doubled his income on 148 acres. His crop-production index had risen from 111 to 176 and his total annual cash receipts from \$523 to \$1,143 in 8 years. A quite elderly man on a smaller farm nearby had run his cash income up from \$236 to \$777 a year by following recommended practices. Very often such farmers produced more on half their old acreage than they did before on all of it.

Such farmers fed the soil, and it brought forth bountifully. They established pasture on the slopes. In Grainger County, it is believed that run-off is now held to 20 inches out of a rainfall of 48 instead of the former run-off of 40 inches. There are about 3,600 unit test farms now educating entire communities in better farm practices. Often those who come to scoff have ended up by joining the movement. Always that which benefits the individual tiller of the soil helps his entire community.

I was also interested in the logical farm and food-production basis upon which deferments of farm workers were then being granted. There the size of the farm and the number of livestock did not matter so much as actual production requirements. The man days of labor needed to produce gallons of milk or bushels of corn counted, calculations being made under average conditions. The plan was said to work effectively and was already receiving the sincerest form of flattery, emulation elsewhere.

## Communities compete

About 80 east Tennessee communities are competing for \$1,750 cash awards offered by the combined civic clubs of Knoxville, Tenn., through their rural-urban relations committee. The purpose is to encourage farm families to work together in organized community groups to provide needed food for the family, maintain and improve soil resources, develop and improve the homes and the farms so that they are good places to live, and encourage farm families with common interest to come together to solve their problems through community planning.



# Flashes

## FROM SCIENCE FRONTIERS

A few hints of what's in the offing as a result of scientific research in the U. S. Department of Agriculture that may be of interest to extension workers, as seen by Marion J. Drown, Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

■ **New rare drug found in tobacco.** Rutin, a valuable glucoside, has been found to be readily obtainable from tobacco of the bright or flue-cured type. The bright-yellow nontoxic powder extracted from the tobacco leaves has been found in clinical tests to be effective in treating a condition called increased capillary fragility, which is associated with high blood pressure. The discovery of rutin in tobacco was made by scientists of the Eastern Regional Research Laboratory at Philadelphia, and the cooperative clinical tests were conducted at the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania.

■ **Vinegar not good medicine for chicks.** For years there has been a difference of opinion regarding the efficacy of vinegar in the drinking water of chicks as a cure for coccidiosis. Some recommended vinegar; others claimed it was useless. To settle the matter, thorough tests of the vinegar treatment have recently been made by the Bureau of Animal Industry at Beltsville. The results favor the second school of thought. Vinegar water having an acidity of about 0.05 percent, and a 5-percent solution of acetic acid (the acid in vinegar) were given chicks in different trials. Neither solution provided any protection against coccidiosis, and the birds receiving the treatment made very poor gains in weight as compared with untreated birds on the same diet. It was concluded that dosing chicks with vinegar may be injurious.

■ **Picking peanuts with a pick-up picker.** New or improved machines that save nine-tenths of the labor usually needed in harvesting peanuts have been developed or tested by engineers at the Department's Tillage Machinery Laboratory at Auburn, Ala. Some of these machines are now

being manufactured, and addresses of firms making them may be obtained from the Agriculture Engineering Division, Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering, Beltsville Research Center, Beltsville, Md. Among the machines is an efficient peanut digger made by putting a blade attachment on a cultivator. A modified commercial combine, which rapidly picks the nuts from the dried vines, has been called a "pick-up picker." An experimental "digger-shaker" and two types of peanut shellers, one of which is powered with a small motor and will shell 300 pounds of peanuts an hour, are also recommended as invaluable aids in planting and harvesting the 4 million acres of peanuts now grown in this country.—double the acreage of 1940.

■ **Blueberries and Onions.** How to grow better blueberries and how to produce good yields of onion sets are the subjects of two recent Farmers' Bulletins, 1951 and 1955.

Thirty-five years ago the Department began breeding work on blueberries. One of the important results of this work, in which several State experiment stations cooperated, was the development of the high-bush type of blueberry. Productive, large-fruited varieties of this type are now cultivated in New Jersey, North Carolina, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, Massachusetts, and New York. More recently, a new species known as rabbiteye has been brought into cultivation from the wild. This blueberry, more heat- and drought-resistant than the high-bush, is good for local markets and home use in the Southeast from eastern North Carolina to northern Florida and to Louisiana and Arkansas. The new bulletin describes methods of propagation, growing, harvesting, and marketing of all the important varieties of blueberries.

The onion-set bulletin outlines the best methods for growing sets under

irrigation as well as in humid regions and tells how to control insects and diseases and how to harvest, cure, and store the sets.

■ **Plant breeders make a clean sweep.** A new variety of broomcorn called Fulltip, developed by crop specialists of the Agricultural Research Administration, has several superior qualities as a crop, as well as sweeping cleaner at the end of a broom handle. Fulltip has a fine brush and unstained straws; it gives a heavy yield of seed; and it saves much labor, because it is a dwarf variety and the stalks don't have to be pulled down to harvest the heads. The new variety was developed by crossing Scarborough, a sparsely seeded native broomcorn, with a coarse-fibered dwarf variety imported from Europe. Fulltip was first distributed by the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering in 1942 and is replacing Scarborough in the broomcorn area in Oklahoma at a rapid rate.

■ **Frozen velvet.** A frozen dessert made of fruit, not merely fruit-flavored, and with the smooth velvety texture of ice cream, is at last possible. A commercial process for making Velva Fruit, as this delicious dessert has been named, developed at the Western Regional Research Laboratory at Albany, Calif., has been adapted to home use with the cooperation of the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. It can be made either in a hand-operated ice-cream freezer or in a mechanical refrigerator. This is a fine way to use surplus or mellow-ripe fruit. The fruit is crushed, or pureed, and about three cups of fruit are mixed with one cup of sugar, a tablespoon of gelatin dissolved in a little water, and a pinch of salt. To the less acid fruits lemon juice and slightly more sugar are added. When the dessert is made in a refrigerator, the mixture is first frozen, then whipped for smooth texture, and stored at low temperature until served. Full directions are given in a mimeographed circular, AIC-53, from the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry, the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics at Washington or from the Western Laboratory. (Supplies of publications in bulk should be obtained through your State distribution office.)



# Among Ourselves

■ ANNA HOLBROOK, home demonstration agent in Walton County, Ga., for the past 18 years, was selected recently by the Monroe Rotary Club as the first person in that county to receive a certificate of merit in recognition of her contribution to the welfare of the county.

The club now plans to recognize an outstanding citizen each week for 1 year. Each person selected will be presented a certificate of merit, but Miss Holbrook will be the only one to receive a gift as a token of esteem.

Miss Holbrook was appointed home demonstration agent in Walton County in February 1926, and since that time has worked with 10,000 home demonstration club and 12,000 4-H Club members. The present enrollment of home demonstration members is 600, and 540 4-H Club members are enrolled.

■ EDITH WOODARD, formerly home demonstration agent, Quay County, N. Mex., is the new State extension nutritionist in New Mexico. She succeeds Mrs. Dorothy Y. Gillett who resigned after 5½ years to roll up her sleeves and find out what her own kitchen is like. Miss Woodard is a graduate of West Texas State Teachers' College, having majored in foods and clothing. She taught home economics in Texas and New Mexico before going to Tucumcari in 1941.

■ MRS. BLANCHE HYDE, for many years a member of the Colorado Extension staff, recently suffered one of the tragic losses of the war. Her son, Brig. Gen. James F. C. Hyde, Commanding General of the Service Command of the New Hebrides Islands, came back home on a 30-day furlough to see his son who was seriously wounded by a grenade while with Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army on the Anzio beachhead. The strain of the nonstop flight from the New Hebrides and the shock of seeing his boy brought on a fatal heart attack. Mrs. Hyde, now retired, is living at 429 North Nevada Ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

■ CAPT. FRANK WAYNE, formerly county agent in Bernalillo County, N. Mex., was killed in a vehicle accident in England recently.

Captain Wayne entered the Extension Service in 1935, serving as county agent in Luna County until 1937, when he was transferred to Bernalillo County. During his 5 years in Albuquerque, he conducted one of the outstanding 4-H programs in the State. Bernalillo County won the Epsilon Sigma Phi 4-H trophy in 1941, the year before Captain Wayne entered the Army.

A member of a southern New Mexico family, Frank was one of five brothers to graduate in agriculture from New Mexico A. & M. One of the boys, Captain Clayborn Wayne, now on leave from his position as extension agronomist, is fighting in France.

Captain Wayne is survived by his wife and two sons.

## Office Secretary becomes assistant county agent

The first woman on the county agent staff of New York State is Mildred Myer, of Waterloo, who was appointed to the position of emergency assistant county agent of Seneca County.

Miss Myer, who has lived on a farm

Mildred Myer



practically all her life, has been engaged as emergency assistant to take on more of the administrative work in the county office and so free Richard Pringle, the county agent, for more work in the field.

She has been the office secretary for the past 6 years and is well acquainted with the problems of Seneca County farmers. The wartime shortage of trained men enables Miss Myer, who is an honor graduate of William Smith College, to take on increased responsibility in agricultural extension work.

■ ROSABELLE GUILLORY, former home demonstration agent in St. Martin Parish, La., is now "top sergeant" of the Training Command, WAC Detachment, at Fort Worth, Tex., and likes her work.

■ Utah home demonstration workers are furnishing a page regularly for the Utah Farmer, describing the various phases of their work in the State and offering some of the homemaking suggestions and short cuts in house-keeping.

■ The Alabama Extension Service and the Agricultural Adjustment Agency have launched a program to help Alabama farmers terrace 1 million acres of land next fall and winter.

Under the plan, the terraces will be constructed on their own farms and those of their neighbors by owners of farm tractors and tractor equipment. These owners will receive conservation payments from the Agricultural Adjustment Agency for doing the work.

Preparatory to the actual terracing next fall and winter, terracing schools and demonstrations were conducted throughout the State. First, district terracing schools were held; then county terracing demonstrations were conducted in each county. Present indications are that from 10 to 75 tractor owners in each county will build terraces this fall and winter.

# The once-over

Reflecting the news of the month as we go to press

TWENTY-EIGHT LIBERTY SHIPS have been named by State 4-H Club groups. Names have been submitted from 10 other States. Admiral Land of the Maritime Commission says of the efforts of 4-H Club members: "Their accomplishments are of real value in the war effort and are a worthy requital for the high ideals of citizenship fostered by 4-H Club leaders."

A 1-DAY RADIO SCHOOL for four home demonstration agents, who put on a regular Wednesday morning broadcast over the Salisbury, Md., station, was taught by the two editors involved, Glenn Sample of Maryland and Betty Burch of Delaware. At the close of the day, the students cut a transcription, using their newly acquired techniques. This was used as the first program in a new series of broadcasts started September 13. Two of the agents were from Maryland, Hilda Topfer, Lucy J. Walter, and two from Delaware, M. Gertrude Holloway, and Mrs. Margaret S. Nelson. The president of the county home economics council also took part.

BILLS REQUIRING ENRICHMENT of certain foods have been passed by several Southern State legislatures. Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Kentucky, and Alabama require flour enrichment. South Carolina adds necessary food elements to corn meal and grits as do also Mississippi and Alabama. Oleomargarine must be enriched in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. A new process for the enrichment of rice has been worked out by the Louisiana Experiment Station, and Arkansas rice growers have developed a process for retaining natural vitamins in white rice. All of which looks to more abundant health.

ADVICE TO PROSPECTIVE SETTLERS in the State of Washington was developed at a series of district training meetings. With the help of economists from the State College of Washington and the Federal agencies, extension workers studied land classification, land values, and place-

ment of veterans and war workers on farms. The strong movement for industrial workers to buy land is bringing in many inquiries from them as well as from servicemen.

PORTLAND, OREG., 4-H CLUBS feel that they are giving up a great deal for their good neighbors in Uruguay. Their 4-H Club agent, Charles J. Weber, is leaving to be an agricultural missionary at the Adventists' church school in Montevideo, Uruguay. 4-H Club agent in the city of Portland for the past 13 years, he has seen enrollment go from 1,700 in 1931 to 3,400 this year. Among the many fine things for which 4-H Club members thank Mr. Weber is the fine 4-H camp on a 40-acre tract owned by the city.

CONSUMER EDUCATION is being strengthened in Mississippi with the appointment of a specialist, Eva E. Legett. As Director L. I. Jones states: "After the close of the war when people begin spending savings and replacing worn-out equipment, extension agents should be informed and ready to meet the situation with sound information on spending the home dollar. There will be a flood of worth-

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less gadgets, cheap, shining furniture, and gaudy clothing ready to catch the untrained eye."

"ONE OF OUR MAIN JOBS under food production," writes County Agent A. F. MacDougall of Middlesex County, Mass., "is the cooperative work we have done with Selective Service Boards in furnishing information as to the boys who remain on the farms. For example, we have had around 2,000 cases referred to us, and I am certain the contacts made in this way have been extremely valuable to the Selective Service Boards, as well as to the food-production program."

HOWDY, FRIEND, begins the regular news letter of County Agent A. F. Hoffman, Jr., of Delta County, Colo., which then breaks into a whole page of verse in which there is no good stopping place. Everything from the hay-test plots to coccidiosis, to dairy breeding, to waste-paper salvage are rhymed and localized. He sums it up with:

The doughboys, leathernecks, and gobs  
Are not yet finished with their respective jobs  
So neither are you and I  
And it's up to us to try  
To exceed every production quota  
Till these gallant guys are victors in toto.

LOOKING FORWARD, 25 persons from the United States and Canada, most of them extension workers, attended the intensive course in rural housing at Purdue University, Indiana, August 14 to September 2. Remodeling houses also came up for consideration at the short course this summer in Oregon which was attended by 16 home demonstration agents from Oregon, Arkansas, and California.

IN A NORTH AFRICAN TOWN, an Army M. P. saw a crowd about a store front. Investigating, he found a picture display with the caption, "What Young Americans Do for the War Effort in 4-H Clubs." It also exhorted the youth of North Africa to go and do likewise. The soldier wrote home: "These pictures of fine, healthy, ambitious young Americans looked awfully good 'way over here.'"